REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims:

Claims 1-7 are currently pending in the application.

By this Amendment, claims 2, 4 and 6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 would be pending. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment. Thus, entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

II. Claim Objections

Claim 6 is objected to because of some informalities. Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering this rejection moot.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter.

The claims have been amended to delete "sheet-like" language. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 & § 103

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,829,398 to Ouchi ("Ouchi"). Claims 2, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ouchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,055,255 to Suyama et al. ("Suyama et al.").

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to an optical connector device, comprising: an optical waveguide layer; a surface-emitting semiconductor laser having a function capable of selecting beam light propagation or diffused light propagation to change a radiation angle of a light; an optical path changing structure for changing an optical path of the light from the semiconductor laser; and light-receiving elements for receiving the light from the semiconductor laser through the optical waveguide layer.

As claimed, the "beam light propagation" and "diffused light propagation" is able to be selected. Thus, signals for example can be sent to appropriate locations, and electric power consumption can be lowered.

Ouchi discloses that light can be transmitted in all direction in an optical waveguide sheet. However, Ouchi does not at all mention the idea about the above-described beam light propagation and diffused light propagation. Ouchi uses beam light propagation. In this case, however, when a signal is transmitted to multiple receivers, multiple beams have to be emitted in order that multiple receivers simultaneously receive the signal from a transmitter, since the emitting portion of the transmitter and the receivers are brought into one-to-one correspondence. As a result, energy consumption increases. In contrast thereto, as claimed, a diffused light propagation can be used in

such case, which allows correspondence between the emitting portion and multiple receivers (one-to-multiple correspondence). Thus, for example, a signal can be transmitted with minimum power.

Suyama et al. discloses that radiation angle is preferably made constant, and hence does not teach actively changing radiation angle. Suyama et al. does not assume the condition where multiple receivers simultaneously receive a signal, and hence does not have the idea of actively changing radiation angle.

Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims are believed to be distinguishable over the cited references, individually or in combination. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5254.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 3/21/06

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